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Guniyandi language

Gooniyandi is an Australian Aboriginal language now spoken by about 100 people, most of whom live in or near Fitzroy Crossing in Western Australia.[4] Gooniyandi is an endangered language as it is not being passed on to children,[4] who instead grow up speaking Kriol.

Gooniyandi	
Region	Western Australia
Ethnicity	Gooniyandi
Native speakers	134 (2016 census)[1]
Language family	Bunuban ▪ **Gooniyandi**
Writing system	Latin
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	gni
Glottolog	goon1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/goon1238)[2]
AIATSIS[3]	K6 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/K6)

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Classification

Gooniyandi is closely related to Bunuba, to about the same degree as English is related to Dutch. The two are the only members of the Bunuban language family. Unlike the majority of Australian Aboriginal languages, Gooniyandi and Bunuba are non-Pama–Nyungan.

Phonology

Gooniyandi's phonology are identical to Bunuba, since they are closely related.

Gooniyandi has three vowel sounds: /a, i, u/. /a/ has contrastive vowel length.[5]

Consonants

	Peripheral		Laminal		Apical	
	Labial	Velar	Palatal	Dental	Alveolar	Retroflex
Stop	p	k		**th** /t̪/	t	**rd** /ʈ/
Nasal	m	**ng** /ŋ/		**nh** /n̪/	n	**rn** /ɳ/
Trill					r	
Lateral					l	**rl** /ɭ/
Approximant			**y** /j/			**r** /ɻ/

Orthography

A Gooniyandi alphabet based on the Latin script was adopted by the community in 1984, and subsequently revised in 1990 and again in 1999.[4] It is not phonemic, as it omits some distinctions made in speech.[4]

Grammar

Gooniyandi has no genders, but a large number of cases; it uses an ergative-absolutive case system. It is a verb-final language, but without a dominant order between the subject and the object.

Notes

1. ABS. "Census 2016, Language spoken at home by Sex (SA2+)" (http://stat.data.abs.gov.au/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=ABS_C16_T09_SA). *stat.data.abs.gov.au*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved 29 October 2017.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Gooniyandi" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/goon1238). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. K6 (https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/K6) Gooniyandi at the Australian Indigenous Languages Database, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
4. "Gooniyandi language, alphabet and pronunciation" (http://www.omniglot.com/writing/gooniyandi.php). *Omniglot*. Retrieved 22 July 2018.
5. Dixon, R.M.W.; Blake, Barry J., eds. (31 December 1983). *Handbook of Australian Languages*. *PHOBILE 2.0*. **1**. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company. doi:10.1075/z.hal3 (https://doi.org/10.1075%2Fz.hal3). hdl:1885/114846 (https://hdl.handle.net/1885%2F114846). ISBN 9789027220059.

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- M Haspelmath; M S Dryer; D Gil; B Comrie (2005). *The World Atlas of Language Structures*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

External links

- Gooniyandi on the Omniglot website (http://www.omniglot.com/writing/gooniyandi.php)
- Rosetta Project: Gooniyandi Swadesh List (https://archive.org/stream/rosettaproject_gni_swadesh-1/gni.txt)
- Gooniyandi Aboriginal Corporation (http://www.gooniyandiaboriginalcorporation.com/)

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This page was last edited on 14 January 2020, at 02:07 (UTC).

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